

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

USPS-01 USSS-00 SY-05 TRSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 JUSE-00

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R 022113Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9451

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINC E762

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, BDIS, PFOR, PGOV, HA, US, UPU

SUBJECT: STAMP SCANDAL INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

REF: PAUP 732 AND PREVIOUS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. LE MATIN CONTINUED ITS CAMPAIGN TO BRING THE FACTS OF THE STAMP SCANDAL OUT IN THE OPEN IN ITS APRIL 1-2 EDITION BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING DETAILS OBTAINED FROM WHAT IT IDENTIFIED AS INVESTIGATIVE OFFICIALS:

(A) JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ROSARIAN AND GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER CASIMIR ARE BEING ASSISTED IN THEIR INTERROGATIONS OF THE DETAINEES BY THREE MILITARY OFFICERS: COL. JEAN VALME, LTC ALBERT PIERRE, AND CAPT. ORCELLE.

(B) CONTRARY TO AN EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT, THERE PROBABLY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE A PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE GOH INVESTIGATORS BEFORE THE ACCUSED ARE SENT TO TRIAL, ALTHOUGH THERE REMAINED A POSSIBILITY THAT AT LEAST THE NAMES OF THE ACCUSED WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC AFTER THE INVESTIGATIVE FILES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TURNED OVER TO THE INSTRUCTION JUDGE.

(C) THE ILLEGAL GAINS MADE BY THE CONSPIRATORS WERE VALUED AT ABOUT \$4.7 MILLION.

(D) THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES HAS REACHED 18, INCLUDING TWO POSTAL EMPLOYEES WHO ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED CANCELLING STAMPS FOR
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"FIRST DAY" CANCELLATIONS OF THE ILLEGAL POSTAGE STAMPS, SOME

PRINTING COMPANY EMPLOYEES, AND A FRIEND OF THE TWO SUSPECTS WHO HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY.

(E) THERE IS NOW SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION, INCLUDING CONFESSIONS OBTAINED FROM SOME OF THE DETAINEES AND THE FINDING OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ILLICIT STAMPS IN A PORT-AU-PRINCE RESIDENTIAL AREA.

2. LE MATIN AGAIN INSISTED UPON THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DETAINEES, ASSERTING THAT CALCULATED SILENCE SERVED NOBODY'S INTEREST, ESPECIALLY THOSE DETAINEES WHO ARE INNOCENT OF WRONGDOING AND WHO SHOULD BE FREED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY BRUTUS HAS CONFIRMED PRIVATELY THAT RETIRED GENERAL CLAUDE RAYMOND WAS UNDER SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT, AND MAY BE SUMMONED FROM HIS AMBASSADORIAL POST IN MADRID TO FACE THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. OTHER SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT FORMER COL. GABRIEL BRUNET, FIRED FROM HIS POST AS CHIEF OF AIRPORT SECURITY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY DISMISSED FROM THE ARMED FORCES IN THE AUGUST 1973 MILITARY SHAKEUP, WAS ARRESTED. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE EUGENE MAXIMILIEN'S SON HAS BEEN REARRESTED. STILL ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTS THAT LUCIEN THEBAUD IS BEING SOUGHT, HAVING BEEN IMPLICATED BY DETAINEE JACQUES FOURCAND (THEBAUD RUNS A PAINT AND BUILDING SUPPLIES BUSINESS, AND WAS ONCE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY LUCKNER CAMBRONNE, IN COOPERATION WITH WHOM HE ALLEGEDLY SOLD BLACKMARKET SHOTGUN SHELLS IN 1971).

4. COMMENT - COL. VALME, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE CASERNES DESSALINES, IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE THE CHIEF GOH INTERROGATOR IN SECURITY MATTERS. HE, LTC PIERRE AND CAPT. ORCELLE WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL INQUIREY COMMISSION ON SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM THAT INVESTIGATED THE MAY AND JUNE 1974 AIRPORT BOMBINGS, AND APPARENTLY INTERVIEWED SUSPECTS FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER 1974 CASTEL HAITI HOTEL EXPLOSION. HOWEVER, THEIR INVOLVEMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE GOH WILL CLAIM THAT SECURITY IS INVOLVED IN THE SCANDAL, BUT CERTAINLY DOES MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ALL POSSIBLE GOH INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED TO UNCOVER EVIDENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FRAUDS, COUNTERFEITING, POSTAGE STAMPS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTA00762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0225
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750489/aaaaddgj.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PAUP 732
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAMP SCANDAL INVESTIGATION CONTINUES
TAGS: ETEL, BDIS, PFOR, PGOV, HA, US, UPU, LE MATIN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006